

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yasuhiko TABATA

Application No.: 10/549,695

Confirmation No.: 9610

Filed: May 26, 2006

Art Unit: 1615

For: SUSTAINED-RELEASE HYDROGEL
PREPARATION

Examiner: A. Sasan

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

MS RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 10, 2009, finally rejecting claims 1 and 3-6, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5.